CONFIDENTIAL.] [No. 18 of 1898.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 30th April 1898.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Remarks.
	Bengali.	**Calcutta.**			
	Weekly.				
1	"Bangavasi"	Calcutta ...	25,000	23rd April, 1898.	
2	"Basumati"	Ditto ...	15,000	28th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi"	Ditto ...	800	25th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi"	Ditto ...	About 4,000	22nd ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,600		
6	"Samay"	Ditto ...	3,000	22nd ditto.	
7	"Samutthan"	Ditto ...	.....		
8	"Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	3,000	23rd ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	25th ditto.	
10	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	23rd ditto.	
	Daily.				
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto ...	200	25rd, 25th, 26th, 28th, and 29th April, 1898.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto ...	1,000	23rd to 27th April, 1898.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	22nd, 23rd and 25th to 28th April, 1898.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	200	22nd, 23rd, and 25th to 27th April, 1898.	
	Hindi.				
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Ditto ...	400		
	Weekly.				
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	25th April, 1898.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	6,500	25th ditto.	
	Persian.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Ditto ...	500	25th ditto.	
2	"Mefta-hur-zafar" ...	Ditto ...	.....		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Remarks.
	URDU.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Calcutta ...	320	21st April, 1898.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto ...	330	24th ditto.	
	BENGALI.	BURDWAN DIVISION.			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	475		
	Weekly.				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	572	23rd April, 1898.	
2	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	240	19th ditto.	
3	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	400	24th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	22nd ditto.	
	BENGALI.	PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
	Weekly.				
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	655		
2	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto ...	603	22nd April, 1898.	
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	Weekly.				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	23rd February 1898.	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	23rd ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400	19th ditto.	
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	Monthly.				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600	20th April, 1898.	
	Weekly.				
1	"Aryavarta"	Dinapur ...	1,000		
	URDU.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Al Punch"	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch"	Gaya ...	400	22nd ditto	
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	Weekly.				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243		This paper is not regularly published for want of type
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180		
	HINDI.				
	Monthly.				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	800		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Remarks.
	Bengali.	**Dacca Division.**			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	755		
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315		
	Weekly.				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	300		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	18th April, 1898.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	24th ditto.	
4	"Sanjay"	Faridpur ...	.....	22nd ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	23rd ditto.	
	English and Bengali.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	25th April, 1898.	
	Bengali.	**Chittagong Division.**			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	450		
	Weekly.				
1	"Jyoti"	Chittagong ...	.....	21st April, 1898.	
2	"Sansodhini"	Ditto	120	20th ditto.	
	Bengali.	**Assam.**			
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....		
2	"Silchar"	Silchar, Cachar ...	340	Second fortnight of March 1304 B. S.	

I.—Foreign Politics.

THE *Bangavasi* of the 23rd April writes as follows with reference to the question of Russia's advance towards India:— BANGAVASI, April 23rd, 1898.

Russia's advance towards India.

Let the authorities judge which of the several theories about Russia's advance towards India is correct. So far as we are concerned, it matters little whether Russia comes at the gate of India or at the foot of India. She will not be able to touch a single hair of India's head. The British Government has bound the Indian people with ties of imperishable love. The Indian people, loyal as they are, are in the habit of offering their heart's blood to their god for the welfare of their rulers. At the call of the Government the native chiefs will willingly offer it their services and will even be prepared to lay down their lives for the protection of the Empire. A friendly invitation by Government will bring the formidable Gurkha troops of Nepal to the field. The Government need not fear Russia and may look upon her advance with perfect composure.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 19th April invites the attention of the District Magistrate of Burdwan to the fact that beggars suffering from small-pox may be seen on Sundays in the streets of the town begging from door to door, and carrying the germs of the disease to unaffected quarters. BURDWAN SANJIVANI, April 19th, 1898.

Small-pox at Burdwan.

3. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 22nd April complains of ravages committed by a tiger in Ranaghat. It is hoped that a native sportsman will put this tiger to death. It is not desirable that a European sportsman should come to the town to kill the tiger, for his presence may lead to the death of a native from a rupture of the spleen or any other accident. SAMAY, April 22nd, 1898.

Ravages committed by wild animals in Ranaghat.

4. The *Hitavadi* of the 22nd April complains of oppression by European soldiers and military officers at Dum-Dum. The soldiers of the West Kent Regiment go to the neighbouring villages in gangs, destroy crops and fish in the local ponds, thereby preventing the village women from going out of their houses. Some of the military officers of the place are in the habit of beating anyone who may happen to carry an umbrella before them. The military authorities are requested to redress the grievances of the village people. HITAVADI, April 22nd, 1898.

Oppression by European soldiers at Dum-Dum.

5. The *Som-Prakash* of the 25th April notices the prevalence of theft in Calcutta, and mentions two cases. One of these occurred in the house of Babu Haran Chandra Rakshit, Editor of the *Janmabhumi* in Sibnarain Das's Lane, at about 2 or 3 P.M. All the household utensils and clothes were carried off. The other occurred on Tuesday night at No. 2, Guruprasad Chaudhuri's lane, whence money and ornaments to the value of about Rs. 1,200 were stolen. This reflects great discredit on those who have to keep the peace in the town. SOM PRAKASH, April 25th, 1898.

Thefts in Calcutta.

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts.*

6. The *Charu Mihir* of the 18th April asks the District Judge and the District Magistrate of Mymensingh and the Bengal Government to call for the records of the following cases and see how they have been disposed of by the Deputy Magistrate of Jamalpur:— CHARU MIHIR, April 18th, 1898.

The Deputy Magistrate of Jamalpur in the Mymensingh district.

(1) Ismail Akanda, complainant; Khalil Paramanik and others, defendants; sections 147, 323, judgment of the Court of first instance; dated the 5th June 1896.

(2) The Parvat Joar case, Chhirai Shaik, complainant; Jharu Shaik and others, defendants; section 147; judgment of the Court of first instance, dated the 29th August 1896.

(3) Karali Sutar, complainant, Amir Shaik, defendant; section 429; judgment, 30th November 1896.

(4) The Bhangbari and Kumargari case, Khaun Mandal complainant; Kamal Shaik and others, defendants; section 143; judgment, 25th February 1896.

(5) The Swadhinabari case, Prannath Jhal, complainant; Uday Datta and others, defendants; Adir Mandal, complainant; Haidar Bux and others, defendants; sections 143,447; judgment, 21st December 1896.

(6) Bateswar Saha, complainant; Srinath Sanyal and others, defendants; sections 342, 352; judgment, 30th June 1895.

(7) Binanda Shaik, complainant; Haragovinda Laskar and others, defendants; section 107; judgment, 31st December 1897.

(8) Govinda Rajvansi, complainant; Sermahmud and others, defendants; sections 147, 323; judgment, 30th November 1897.

(9) Atul Pesukar and Boyej Khan, complainants; Jarif Shaik and others defendants; sections 343, 456; judgment, 22nd December 1896.

(10) Pagaru Bajari, complainant; Dhan Mahmud Sarkar and others, defendants; section 147; judgment, 12th February 1898.

(11) Bengi Chandalini, complainant; Adim Shaik and others, defendants; section 447.

(12) Taripulla Shaik, complainant; Bilat Ali Sarkar, defendant; section 143; judgment, 29th April 1897.

(13) Khayer Mahmud and Tamej Bepari, complainants; Najir Dalal and others, defendants; section 304; judgment, 18th May 1896.

(14) Ramadhin Sukul, complainant; Bakhar Mahmud Sarkar, defendant; section 143; judgment, 23rd July 1897.

In cases (1) and (2) Babu Kali Mohan, Sub-Deputy Magistrate, passed sentences on some of the accused, which were confirmed on appeal. The rest of the accused against whom the charges were proved were first summoned, and then warrants were issued for their appearance. The sudden transfer of Babu Kali Mohun having led to the transfer of the case to the file of the Maulvi Saheb, the latter acquitted the accused without taking any evidence.

In case (3), the police having submitted a C form, Babu Kali Mohan, after taking the deposition of the witness, summoned the accused under section 429. The accused was, however, discharged when the case was transferred to the file of the Maulvi Saheb.

In case (4), the Maulvi Saheb sentenced one of the accused after hearing the case himself; the rest of the accused were then summoned; but the case was not proceeded with; and after repeated adjournments, the accused were at length discharged without a trial.

CHARU MIHIR, April 18th, 1898.

The District Judge of Mymensingh.

7. The same paper writes as follows about Mr. Pennell, the District Judge of Mymensingh:—Mr. Pennell does the routine work of his office up to 2 or 2-30 P.M. Pleaders and Mukhtars who have applications to file or any other business have to wait up to that hour. This is a sore inconvenience to parties, witness and pleaders alike. To add to their inconvenience, Mr. Pennell has recently ordered that all vakalatnamas, mukhtarnamas, summonses for witness, &c., have to be filed through him. Considering the suspicion and distrust which have been occasioned by certain recent proceedings in the court, the sacrifice of so much time and energy on the part of Mr. Pennell is quite uncalled for. It leaves him too little time for judicial work.

CHARU MIHIR.

The Deputy Magistrate of Jamalpur in the Mymensingh district.

8. A correspondent of the same paper writes:—The doings of the Deputy Magistrate, Maulvi Ahmed, have at length attracted the notice of the authorities. The District Judge, Mr. Pennell has now got hold of him in connection with a case of some importance. Let us bring up two or three other cases from the depths of the record-room for the information of the authorities:—

(*a*) Certain cases of oppression by zamindars in the villages, Bachpur Alga, Naugarpara, Surathadi, &c., under Nalitabari thana were instituted in the Deputy Magistrate's Court. The defendants were charged with having committed atrocious cruelties. Did the Maulvi Saheb take any timely steps in the matter? If not, why not?

(*b*) An indebted zamindar took in his service one Sitanath Ganguli and gave him the title of "inspector" of his affairs. This Sitanath hails from the same part of the country as the Maulvi Saheb. This newly appointed servant of the zamindar's having failed in his attempt to enhance rents in the villages of Adra, Baghadoba, &c., at the rate of 6 annas in the rupee, his patron, the Maulvi Saheb, suddenly altered his Nandina tour programme and camped at Gujamanika, not far from Adra and Baghadoba. Strangely enough, the raiyats began at once to give registered kabuliyats agreeing to the enhanced rents.

(*c*) The 31st of March, the date on which the Maulvi Sahib was to have left Jamalpur, was also fixed for the hearing of a case instituted by Dastur Mahmud Mandal under section 342, against the Maulvi Saheb's *protege* Sitanath. An application to have the case compounded was filed two or three days before that date. When on the day of hearing the mukhtar for the complainant, who was not aware that such an application had been made, informed the Maulvi Saheb that the complainant was not present in Court, he was severely taken to task by the Deputy Magistrate, and told that the complainant had been to the officer's residence and expressed his willingness to compound the case. Why this extraordinary procedure?

(*d*) The day after the Maulvi Saheb received a grand entertainment at the thana, the work of electing panchayets was taken from the hands of the clerk, who had been hitherto entrusted with it, and transferred to the police. The appointment of panchayets was made on the principle on which ferries and cattle-pounds are leased out, the principle, that is, of giving the privilege to the highest bidder. The whole affair was managed by the police with Sitanath as the keeper of the accounts. The appointments were made in a secret manner. Will the authorities inquire into the matter and particularly into Sitanath's mysterious connection with it?

A land registration grievance in the Chittagong district.

9. A correspondent complains, in the columns of the *Jyoti* of the 21st April, that owing to the negligence of muharrirs in the Chittagong land registration office, people are at times called upon to pay extra *rujina* or allowance, even when they have affixed proper and necessary court-fee stamps to their applications for the registration of names.

JYOTI, April 21st, 1898.

Two criminal cases in Chittagong.

10. The same paper reports two criminal cases. In one of these one Abdul, an inhabitant of Dingamanik, in the jurisdiction of thana Palong, in the Faridpur district, appeared before Babu Bagola Prasanna Mazumdar, Deputy Magistrate of Chittagong, and applied for and obtained warrants against his wife, Sahebjan, and one Safiuddin, on a charge of elopement. The accused were arrested and placed before the Deputy Magistrate, who ordered them to be released on bail for Rs. 400. Having failed to give the required security, they were detained in *hajut* that day. The next day the Deputy Magistrate reduced the amount of bail to Rs. 150 for Safiuddin and Rs. 50 for Sahebjan. On the day fixed for the hearing of the case, neither of the accused was present in Court, and the amount of the bail was forfeited. A week after Safiuddin and Sahebjan appeared before the Deputy Magistrate and prayed for the return of the forfeited money, on the ground that they had failed to appear on the day of hearing because Sahebjan was ill. Bagola Babu granted their prayer for a refund, and fixed the 15th April for the further hearing of the case. On the 14th the complainant sought his permission to serve notices upon the witnesses, but he was sent away with the assurance that this might be done the first thing the next day. On the 15th, however, the case was called on early, and dismissed for want of evidence. In the meantime, the Palong Bench of Honorary Magistrates had issued a warrant for the arrest of Sahebjan, which being brought before Bagola Babu, was returned by him with a medical certificate, and a letter requesting the Bench to permit the examination of the girl at Chittagong on commission, on the ground that she was far from well.

JYOTI.

In the other case, the nephew of Akbar Ali Khan, a zamindar, recently went by boat to Cox's Bazar. While his servant was removing his luggage to the shore, a constable came up and wanted the man to accompany him to the Subdivisional Officer's bungalow to serve there as a porter. As in spite of the gentleman's remonstrances, his servant was taken away, he naturally followed to obtain the man's release. But no sooner had he appeared before the

European Subdivisional Officer, than he was assaulted by the latter with a stick, so unmercifully indeed as to draw blood. The aggrieved zamindar sought the help of the local munsif and doctor; but finding no remedy, travelled to the Sadar and laid a complaint before the District Magistrate against the offending Deputy Magistrate of Cox's Bazar. The case is *subjudice*.

SANJAY, April 22nd, 1898.

Decision of suits in the Faridpur Sub-Judge's Court.

11. According to the *Sanjay* of the 22nd April, the Subordinate Judge of Faridpur always takes a long time to decide suits, much to the discomfort and harassment of the parties. The suit of Isan Chandra Mozumdar, *appellant*, *versus* the Chaudhuris of Baliakandi, *respondents*, has been hanging fire since the 11th of *Chaitra* last, and both parties are incurring expense and experiencing worry and trouble for the delay.

(*d*)—*Education.*

JYOTI, April 21st, 1898.

Mr S. Percival's appointment to the Chittagong Collegiate School.

12. According to the *Jyoti* of the 21st April, Mr. S. Percival, who has been recently appointed as a teacher of the Chittagong Collegiate School on Rs. 50 a month, has no other qualification for the post than that he is a Eurasian. If it was necessary to patronise him at any cost, he should have been given a clerkship in the office of the Director of Public Instruction. He has been deputed to teach English in the 3rd and 4th classes of the school department, and much dissatisfaction is said to be felt by the pupils, owing to his inability to explain English phrases, idioms and passages in Bengali, without which they cannot understand their lessons.

JYOTI.

Text-books for the Primary Examinations.

13. The same paper has the following:—

It is no doubt a matter for congratulation that the University is turning out an increasing number of graduates every year. Most of them are, however, sickly, suffer from manifold diseases, and have very little of life and energy in them. This state of things is due to the large number of useless text-books they are required to master even from their infancy. Scarcely have little boys learnt the alphabet, than they have to prepare for the Lower Primary Examination, so that at the age of seven or thereabouts they have to take lessons in literature, hygiene, arithmetic, mensuration, mental arithmetic, &c. The questions set at this examination are usually too stiff for even middle vernacular candidates. The natural outcome of this system of education is that boys imbibe an idea that what they are expected to do is not so much to acquire real proficiency in any subject as to anyhow pass their examinations. We ask the authorities if they expect any good from the study of hygiene by boys of seven or eight years of age.

The only fit book for the Lower Primary Examination, *Bodhoday*, has been replaced by *Nutanpath*. It is curious that while the works of Rai Dina Nath and Rai Radhika Prasanna remain text-books for ever and ever, Vidyasagar's *Bodhoday* has been made to make room for *Nutanpath*, almost immediately after his death. Is it because Chandra Babu, the author of "Nutan Path" is a Government servant that the merits and demerits of his book should not be taken into consideration? Ask anybody, literate or illiterate, old or young, and you will be struck with the unanimity of opinion in favour of *Bodhoday*. We doubt whether *Nutanpath* would at all have been selected as a text-book, if Chandra Babu had not happened to be the Bengali Translator to Government. We do not wish to enter into the merits and demerits of the work, but we may be permitted to say that it is by no means fit to replace *Bodhoday* as a text-book.

HITAVADI, April 22nd, 1898.

A bad selection by the Central Text-Book Committee.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 22nd April continues its criticism of *Ramer Rajyabhisek*, a publication approved as a text-book by the Central Text-Book Committee.

HITAVADI.

Babu Nabin Chandra Sen's *Palasir Yuddha*.

15. The same paper continues its defence of *Palasir Yuddha* against unfavourable remarks passed upon it.

HITAVADI.

A Bengali text-book on history.

16. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the tables annexed in the shape of an appendix to *Pratham Siksha Bangalar Itihas*, a text-book on history by the late Babu Rajkrishna Mukharji, do not tally with the contents of the book. The book

has been revised up to date, but not so the appendix. This oversight should be soon mended.

17. The *Sanjivani* of the 23rd April complains that the recent order of the Calcutta High Court, that those only who have passed the Entrance Examination will henceforward be allowed to appear at the Mukhtarship Examination, will produce injurious consequences. It will not only deprive the scions of many respectable though poor families who cannot prosecute their studies beyond the standard of the Middle Vernacular or Middle English Examination, of the chance of entering a profession and paying their way through life, but it will also injuriously affect the interests of the Bengali language. At present many prepare themselves for the Middle Vernacular Examination, simply with a view to go up for the Mukhtarship Examination. If, therefore, the former no longer serve as a stepping stone to the latter, boys will be less anxious than at present to appear at the Middle Vernacular Examination. If, however, the High Court is not prepared to cancel the rule which it has issued, it should not put it into force at least for four or five years.

SANJIVANI, April 23rd, 1898.

The Mukhtarship Examination.

18. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 25th April deprecates the attitude of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, in the Saraswat Samaj controversy, and says :—Whoever wins—whether Prasanna Chandra Vidyaratna or Kasi Chandra Vidyaratna—it is certain that henceforward the Saraswat Samaj will be but a branch of the Education Department. It comes to this, then, that the individuality and ascendency of the Pandit class, which has so long been a distinctive feature of the Samaj, and for the maintenance of which so many stringent regulations were laid down, will now be nowhere. Really we were prepared to see dissension in the Samaj and its consequent dismemberment, but we cannot bear the sight of a third party intervening for the purpose of depriving it of all its power. If the Divisional Commissioner is to convene a meeting and settle the affairs of the Somaj, its very constitution will probably be changed, and even the rule that none but Brahmans shall be office-bearers of the Samaj, will perhaps be done away with. It is doubtful whether the Commissioner, who is an Englishman, will care to respect caste considerations. Practically all power will henceforth be vested in the Director of Public Instruction ; and if there be again an occasion when, as during the Consent Bill controversy, it becomes necessary for the Saraswat Samaj to give its opinion, this elephant-like institution will very probably obey the goad of its rider, Dr. Martin. This is not exactly the time for the Pandit community to quarrel among themselves. External foes are waiting to crush and devour them. They should now all combine in self-defence.

DACCA GAZETTE, April 25th, 1898.

The Saraswat Samaj controversy.

(*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

18. The *Charu Mihir* of the 18th April reports that, owing to water-scarcity in Mymensingh, the people are drinking foul and muddy water and dying of cholera in large numbers, especially in villages Kahetpawali, Achamita, Charipara, &c.

CHARU MIHIR, April 18th, 1898

Water-scarcity in Mymensingh.

A correspondent of the same paper writes from Achamita :—There is sore water-scarcity here. Water has to be brought from the distance of one mile or even two miles for cooking and drinking purposes. This water, however, is impure. The members of the Local Board are too busy with the affairs of their respective villages to mind the affairs of our village, which does not return a single member to the Board. Cholera has broken out in Kahetpawali, Baniagram, Ukhrasul, Bhanjaniya, Mumurdiya, Astagharia, Induyain, Achamita, Charipara, &c., and has carried off fifty to sixty victims. A telegram was sent to the District Magistrate requesting him to send a doctor. The Magistrate has replied asking for the exact number of deaths and the names of the villages where they happened. But what if people die before the doctor comes ?

Another correspondent writes from Gafargaon :—

Tanks and *khals* have almost all dried up, causing great water-scarcity. Many of these reservoirs of water have had their beds raised through the operation of the late earthquake. The people are mostly poor and cannot afford to get new tanks dug or old ones repaired at their own expense. The District

Board is requested to get a few tanks excavated near Tengar in the Gafargaon subdivision.

There are few roads in the south-west of Gafargaon belonging to the Local or the District Board. The one running from Kaoraid to Jaidharkhali has not been repaired for three or four years, and is now overgrown with jungle and is scarcely passable, parts of it having sunk in the late earthquake.

SANSODHINI, April 20th, 1898.

Oppression at Anti Mahmud Ghàt in Chittagong.

19. The Anti Mahmud ghàt *manjhis* are, according to the *Sansodhini* of the 20th April, an oppressive lot, who detain passengers, delay ferry trips, and commit other irregularities without being called upon by the Municipality to explain their conduct. Recently, owing to a misunderstanding with one man, they detained by force a number of passengers till the news of a complaint before the District Magistrate reached their ears and brought them to their senses.

BANGAVASI, April 23rd, 1898

The Committee of the Calcutta Municipality for the consideration of the Calcutta Municipal Bill.

20. The Calcutta Municipal Bill, writes the *Bangavasi* of the 23rd April, has been referred to a Committee of the Calcutta Municipality for consideration. The Committee consists of six elected Babu Commissioners and seven nominated Babu and European Commissioners. We do not know whether the opinion of this Committee will disturb the equanimity of the Lieutenant-Governor or put Mr. Risley to shame. It is, however, sure that for some time to come the Babus will be in a temper, and there will be a waste of ink, pen and paper. There will also be speech-making without end. Why make uncalled-for remarks when no one is prepared to hear you? The Bengali is ignorant of the science of sanitation and is quite incapable of removing the wants and grievances of the residents of the town, and it is not, therefore, advisable to let him have the upper hand and absolute control in the management of municipal affairs. This is what you have heard the Lieutenant-Governor say. This is the sentiment which you find pervading the Calcutta Municipal Bill. Come, then, come back to your home. Improve the condition of your ancestral abodes, repair your tanks, give shelter to those who have no shelter or protection This will increase your prestige and enhance your reputation in your native village. As a Municipal Commissioner, doing thankless drudgery, you will be like the washerman's dog in the Bengali proverb,—loved or favoured by nobody. But why this farce?

BANGAVASI.

The proposed General Committee of the Calcutta Municipality.

21. The same paper has a cartoon on the proposed General Committee of the Calcutta Municipality. Twelve Commissioners, Native and European, sit in a circle on a round table, while a corpulent European sits in a chair placed in the centre. The cartoon is headed *Darbar-i-khas*, or "a private *darbar*." The letter-press is as follows:—

THE LORD AND HIS TWELVE APOSTLES.

Calcutta Municipal Office.

Song.

We are all cripple Jagannaths—our hands, our ears and our noses have all been cut off.
So long we were *thont-katas* (literally, a person with lips cut off; figuratively, given to reckless speaking) and did nothing but speak empty words;
But now our mouths are sealed, and we have made it our sole occupation to flatter obsequiously.
The Lieutenant-Governor has ordered that we shall be all *Gobar-Ganeses*, mere puppets and figure-heads,
And we shall win the game (do our duty) by shaking our heads and passing encomiums.

(*In full chorus.*)

O you all twelve merry souls, all bosom friends and boon companions, make sitting in the chair your sole occupation.
We have no distinctions, we have neither sorrow nor pleasure, we shall care only for the two gold *mohurs* (which we shall be paid).

22. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 24th April makes the following observations on the Government Resolution reviewing the working of the District and Local Boards in the Dacca Division:—Out of the 29 members for the Dacca district, fourteen were elected by the Local Boards, and of these latter 12 were pleaders. The Magistrate notices this fact with regret, and says that this is a case, not of self-government, but of government by pleaders. It should, however, borne in mind that Magistrates as Chairmen show a partiality for English-knowing members of the District Boards, and elections generally result in the return of such members. The pleaders, constituting as they do the *élite* of the English-knowing native community, are of necessity elected.

DACCA PRAKASH, April 24th, 1898.

Self-government in the Dacca Division.

But Magistrates should bear in mind that they are in Bengal and not England, and that the language of the country is Bengali and not English. Among the English-knowing people in this country, whose number is small, the pleaders have a recognised position, one higher even than that of Judges and Magistrates. This is due to the fact that the latter, who are ignorant of the language of the country, have often to depend on the pleaders for the production and interpretation of documentary and other evidence in the course of the trial of law suits, and that there is an appeal against such orders by judicial officers as may be passed by them in disregard of the pleaders' arguments and representations. The pleaders, again, if they are so minded, can ruin clients who are ignorant of English. It is therefore only natural that people should give preference to pleader candidates at elections.

The Magistrate speaks favourably of the members of the Dacca District Board, for the reason that they did not oppose him in any matter. The writer would not, however, have taken it ill if the Magistrate had expressed himself unfavourably of the Board, on the ground of certain of its members having dissented from his views. It is notorious that the action of the Chairman in carrying matters with the help of a pliant majority and in disregard of the views of the few experienced members, has not unoften the effect of making him unpopular.

(*f*)—*Questions affecting the land.*

23. Cadastral survey and settlement in the *khas mahals*, writes the *Bangavasi* of the 23rd April, generally results in an enhanced assessment of the land revenue. The poor raiyat becomes all but ruined by the paying of the land revenue to the Government and of interest to the *mahajan* for money borrowed from him. One year's drought or scarcity is therefore sure to do him almost to death. He has to feed and clothe his family, to bribe Government officers, to pay tax and interest, and to sell his crops at half-price to European merchants who have made advances to him. That in spite of all these difficulties and worries, the population of India is increasing must no doubt be rare good fortune to the British Government.

BANGAVASI, April 23rd, 1898

Cadastral survey and settlement.

(*g*)—*Railways and communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

24. The *Sanjay* of the 22nd April says that some better arrangement than that now in force should be made for the sale of railway and steamer tickets at Goalundo, and suggests that the booking office should remain open day and night, so that tickets may be purchased at all hours. This would entail some additional cost, which, however, would be more than counterbalanced by the increased convenience of passengers.

SANJAY, April 22nd, 1898.

A railway grievance.

(*h*)—*General.*

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 19th April has the following:—"The death of natives at the hands of European soldiers is by no means a rare occurrence in this country. Here, there and everywhere does one hear of it. Indeed, oppression by European soldiers appears to have increased of late. What may the reason of this increase be?

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, April 19th, 1898.

Murder of Natives by European soldiers.

In reply to a question about the Kirkee case by Mr. Herbert Roberts, Lord George Hamilton said that he was not prepared to abolish the rule

of granting shooting passes to soldiers who might bear an excellent character. Nor do we object to this rule. But exemplary punishment must be meted out to those who go out shooting without such passes or who contravene the conditions under which these passes are granted. It would, we believe, be no exaggeration to say that the rule in question is honoured more in the breach than in the observance, and that murders and oppressions are consequently on the increase. We can unhesitatingly say that if a strict observance of this rule were required, under pain of punishment, the murder of natives by Europeans would become more scarce. Lord George Hamilton should pay some attention to this matter, for unless a severe punishment is prescribed for a breach of this rule, it is useless to expect any good results whatever.

Another reason is that European soldiers charged with the murder of natives are never adequately punished by the law courts; nay, they often escape scot-free. If, on the other hand, an Anglo-Indian is killed, no means is left untried, no expense is deemed too large, and no pains are spared to run the murderer to death and punish him most exemplarily. Of course, we do not object to this. But why should the Native murderer receive one treatment and the European another? The English Government enjoys a well-deserved reputation for impartiality. Let it, therefore, treat all alike. Unless this is done, there can is little hope of putting a stop to the growing number of murders by Europeans. We really regret that the law courts in India do not always maintain the prestige of England for integrity and impartiality. May not the Fuller Minute, which gives evidence of the high and noble mind of Lord Lytton, be revived at the present moment with advantage?"

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, April 19th, 1898.

The Famine Commission.

26. The same paper says that there can be no doubt that the task system is preferable on a famine relief work to the piece system, but there is no reason why the task system should answer equally well in every case. The system of labour to be adopted should be regulated by the circumstances of each particular case. When relief works are opened before the actual breaking out of famine, the task system should be resorted to, for then it would not be possible for contractors to extort more work from the labourers than they are paid for. But when the famine has made its presence unmistakably felt, the piece system should replace the task system. Thus, the system of work should be determined according to the requirements of each case, and should not be controlled by any hard-and-fast rule.

HITAVADI, April 22nd, 1898.

The Postal Superintendent of Manbhum.

27. The *Hitavadi* of the 22nd April has the following with reference to the conduct of Mr. Duncan, Postal Superintendent of Manbhum:—

We have heard of official highhandedness of various descriptions, but we do not remember to have heard before of high-handedness of postal officials. The police and the Magistrates generally commit oppression. Engineers and doctors may also be capable of oppression, but we never before considered it possible that *sardars* (heads) of post peons should become oppressive and highhanded. We have now become disabused of this impression and see that official oppression is not confined to any particular department, but may take place in all possible directions.

We have been hearing complaint after complaint against Mr. Duncan, Postal Superintendent of Manbhum. At first we treated all these complaints with indifference, but we now see that they are too numerous to be ignored. The complaints against Mr. Duncan at first exclusively related to the Postal Department, and we expected that the postal authorities would take these complaints into their consideration, and take steps to redress the grievances of the complainants. This is the reason why we so long refrained from agitating against the Postal Superintendent of Manbhum.

Let us relate some of the complaints preferred against Mr. Duncan. According to one of the rules of the Postal Department, a postal overseer, on his arrival at the head-quarters, has to be present in the post office and to get the entries in his diary signed by the Post-master. Mr. Duncan, however, compells the attendance of the overseers in his office for three or four hours every day, and signs their diaries himself. In this Mr. Duncan violates a rule of the Postal Department, and we thought that the postal authorities would take him

to task for this violation, which, however, does not in any way concern the public.

Here is another complaint against Mr. Duncan. He compelled the postal runner on the Rajgram line to carry to his residence every day all letters and packets addressed to him as soon as the Raniganj mail reached the Bankura post office. Mr. Duncan's residence is two miles off the Bankura post office, and it takes the runner full two hours to go to and return from it. The *dâk* to Rajgram is consequently delayed by two hours. Mr. Duncan has his office peon, and the latter or a post peon may carry his letters to him. Why does he then delay the postal runner on the Rajgram line in the delivery of the mail at Rajgram post office by full two hours, while it is his duty to make arrangements for a regular and punctual delivery of the mail? We did not at first mind this complaint as well as various other complaints regarding his discourteous treatment of the office staff.

The other day Mr. Duncan was going to Chaibassa. From Balarampur he wrote a letter to the Post-master of Chakradharpur, ordering him to keep two bullock carts ready at the station. The Post-master had duly complied with the order, but on alighting at the station, Mr. Duncan was thrown into a passion at the sight of the bullock carts. He abused the Post-master right and left and was about to strike him.

We are further told that Mr. Duncan is in the habit of ordering the postal overseers to supply him with fowl. Such orders are written on postal forms, and are sent to their destination on postal service. They are written in Bengali and signed by the head clerk. Here are two such orders:—

(1)

"Superintendent 14.

From—The Superintendent, Manbhum Division,
To—The Overseer, Raipur Line.

No. Dd., dated 26th March 1898.

I HEAR that Mem Saheb is short of fowl. Send fowl as soon as possible. Fail not.

R. B. MUKHERJI,
Head Clerk."

(2)

"From—The Superintendent, Manbhum Division,
To—The Overseer, Taldangra Line.

No. Do., dated 26th March 1898.

I HEAR that Mem Saheb is short of fowl. Send fowl as soon as possible. Fail not.

R. B. MUKHERJI.
Head Clerk.
S. Post."

Raipur is 42 miles and Taldangra 21 miles from Bankura. If some fowl die on the road in the course of transmission, the Superintendent is thrown into a temper and takes the carriers of those fowl severely to task. As for the orders for fowl, we have seen them with our own eyes. We earnestly pray the Postmaster-General and the Director-General of Post Offices to make an enquiry into the complaints against Mr. Duncan.

28. The same paper complains that there seems to be apparently no remedy against cooly-recruiting abuses, all agitation and complaint notwithstanding. The ignorant masses of India know very little of what is going about in the country. They do not read newspapers and fall an easy prey to the wily cooly recruiter, and once in his clutches there is no escape for them.

Cooly-recruiting cases.

HITAVADI, April 22nd, 1898.

Here are three cases of recruitment by unlawful means. A correspondent of the paper came across three women in the Nakachari Tea Garden, Assam. One of these three women is Kusum Bauri, father's name Ram Bauri, husband's name Babu Bauri, abode Fuljurh, post-office Durgapur, district Burdwan. She says that she had a quarrel with her husband and was going to her father's house, when Radhika Kalu of Sibpur induced her to go to his house. Once in his house she was confined in a room, and after three days taken to Calcutta.

She was placed in a cooly depôt at Sealdah, and was told that her name had to be registered there before she was allowed to go home. The man accompanied her to Goalundo and then disappeared.

The name of the second woman is Kshiroda Dasi. Her husband is dead, and one of her brothers disappeared some time ago and has not since been heard of. Her father's name is Harakali of Naldi, district Jessore. She is living with her father, who is very poor, and she therefore used to maintain herself by serving as a maid-servant. One day, Gunga Charan Bhadra of Suddhidenga in the Jessore district proposed to employ her on a liberal pay. She consented and went to his house. After a few days she was taken to Calcutta, whence he took her to Goalundo on the pretext of going on a pilgrimage with her. The man disappeared at Goalundo.

The name of the third woman is Manada Sundari, a Rajput by caste. Her father's name is Fekan Singh, who is dead. She was living at Tribeni in the Hooghly district. One day she went to Burdwan on some business. At the Burdwan station a man dressed like a gentleman came up to her and pretended to know her well. He invited her to his house, where she was very much ill-treated. After three or four days she was taken to Calcutta, and thence sent up to Goalundo. The man who had sent her up as a cooly is Nalini Ghosh. He is a cooly-recruiter belonging to the Burdwan cooly depôt.

HITAVADI, April 22nd, 1898.

The State Church in India.

29. The same paper complains that the Government annually spends 22 lakhs of rupees for the maintenance of a church in India for the benefit, it is said, of the English army—for the religious and moral improvement of the British soldier. There are seventy-four thousand British soldiers in India, but has the State-maintained church done them any good whatever, religious or moral? If this had been the case, we would not have come across unruly soldiers committing oppression upon the people or killing helpless natives as beasts. But even if we accept the theory of the Government as true, are not 22 lakhs of rupees too much for the purpose? One hundred Scots pray in the St. Andrew's Church, and the maintenance of the church costs them no more than Rs. 200 per year. Why this abnormally heavy expense for the prayer of seventy-four thousand British soldiers?

HITAVADI.

A cartoon on the plague.

30. The same paper has a cartoon on the plague. Four rats are in a prayerful posture. Two cannon have been directed against them, while a number of Europeans are watching the firing of one of the cannon at the rats. The cartoon is headed as follows:—

"Place—Simla Hill.
Time—the month of Baisakh."

The letter-press runs as follows:—

"The rat submitted the following prayerful petition to the Englishman:—

I destroy cloth,
I make holes in the earth to pick out food,
But I never touched the plague even in a dream.
I never went to the realm of the God of Death (*i.e.*, I never died)
With plague bacilli in my body.
Why then vent your wrath on me?
A swelling of the gland
And you are thrown into a panic.
But why should the rats be killed for this?
The man boasts of his knowledge of medical science,
And is always busily engaged in discovery and invention.
But all his knowledge has failed him in the present case, and he now holds the poor rat responsible for the epidemic.
So you have now set your cannon and ammunition
Against the rat.
Why causelessly give pain to innocent creatures?
There is no doubt a sensation among mankind,
But why should the rat suffer for this?
Will the epidemic disappear if all the rats are killed?

Importation from Bombay will not be stopped,
And you are needlessly showing heroism by killing rats.
Is there no bacillus in the goods imported from Bombay ?
Have all the bacilli been monopolised by rats?
For heavens' sake, do not judge in this way."

Oppression in connection with the collection of the water-rate in Midnapore.

HITAVADI, April 22nd, 1898.

31. A correspondent of the same paper complains of oppression in connection with the collection of the water-rate in Midnapore. The certificate fee has been raised from 2 annas to 12 annas. The Collector of the cess has no time fixed for its collection. He often comes without a notice, and finds the raiyat quite unprepared to pay the cess. The poor raiyat thus becomes a defaulter, and his moveable property is sold off to realise the cess from him. The consequence of all this is that the raiyat is often unwilling to renew his *kabuliyat* and take canal water for the irrigation of his fields.

Supervision of European schools.

SANJIVANI, April 23rd, 1898.

32. Commenting on Sir John Woodburn's statement that His Honour will gladly consider any proposals for retrenchment that may be made by any of the non-official members of the Bengal Legislative Council, the *Sanjivani* of the 23rd April refers to the one made by the Hon'ble Kali Charan Bannerji in relation to the inspection of European schools in this country. The writer invites the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the suggestion that this inspection can be effectively made by the ordinary inspecting staff of the Education Department without the aid of a separate and costly agency.

Irregular postal delivery at Raipur.

BANKURA DARPAN, April 23rd, 1898.

33. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 23rd April prays for (1) the addition of a village peon to the staff of the Raipur post office and (2) a better arrangement for opening the letter boxes in Bankura town. The post peon visits certain parts of Raipur only once in a fortnight, and the letters posted in the box at Bankura Bazar are sent the day after they are posted. The delivery closes when the peon No. 2 opens the box after having delivered his letters, &c., at the second delivery; and hence the letters in the box are delayed for a day. A special arrangement for opening the box at 4-30 P.M. and removing the letter therein to the post office is suggested.

Mr. Nathan's report on the plague.

BANGAVASI, April 23rd, 1898.

34. Mr. Nathan, writes the *Bangavasi* of the 23rd April, has written a voluminous report on the plague in India. The report no doubt contains a minute analysis of the epidemic and everything else about it. There is a plenty of paper, ink and pen at the disposal of the Government, a plenty of money, and a plenty of men to print the report. There is therefore no wonder that a voluminous report should be published. But we still support what was said by Haji Abdul Jubbar Khan; it is beyond the power of man, who is as worthless as a straw, to explain the inscrutable ways of the Divine power or to read aright the manifestations of the Divine force. You may write a report, you may call science to your aid, you may employ soldiers if you like; but all that is neither here nor there.

The execution of Damodar Chapekar.

BANGAVASI.

35. The same paper has the following with reference to the execution of Damodar Chapekar:—

All is over. Damodar is now beyond all earthly tribulation and our anxiety is at an end. A native has after all been hanged and has paid the penalty for the murders of Rand and Ayerst, two men who belonged to the ruling race. As was well observed by Damodar, it is all the same to a true Brahman whether he lives or dies and whether he comes by his death from a gunshot or a fall from horse-back or from hanging by the neck. We do not therefore like to cloud our mind with the dark shadow of grief. But we shall never forget that, by an irony of fate, the blood of a Brahman has been shed, although he was not directly implicated in the murder, although there was no evidence against him except his own confession, and although he petitioned the Viceroy, the Governor of Bombay, and Her Majesty the Queen, piteously praying for mercy. We do not blame the Government. The inevitable must happen.

BANGAVASI, April 23rd, 1898.

36. The same paper writes as follows:—

The Government's water-supply scheme.

We are glad to observe that Sir John Woodburn, our new Lieutenant-Governor is very much in favour of improving the water-supply in the mufassal. At the last meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, His Honour, addressing the Council, observed as follows:—

"He (the Hon'ble Mr. Risley) has told you that it was the earnest desire of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to give the people a supply of pure water in their villages. A proposal has been so far formulated that it has received the warm approval of the Government of India, and will be carried still further forward in a very short time. It is desirable that measures of that kind should be concluded in a methodical way."

These honeyed words of the Lieutenant-Governor have filled our heart with joy. Victory to him! May he live long! We are like thirsty skylarks always crying for water, for pure water, and we are over-powered with joy when we see clouds in the sky. Why shall we not be over-powered with joy at the sweet words uttered by the Lieutenant-Governor? Improve the water-supply of our villages and they will again be free from all diseases. Cultivation will thrive and our villages will be turned into a heaven on earth?

SOM PRAKASH, April 25th, 1898.

37. The *Som Prakash* of the 25th April has the following on the plague scare in Calcutta:—

The plague scare in Calcutta.

The plague is growing more and more formidable every day, and is spreading in all directions. The measures adopted by the Government for its suppression, besides being ineffective, are themselves becoming a source of terror to the people. The working of the plague rules in Bombay and their ultimate repeal are well known to everybody.

The suspected outbreak of plague in Calcutta has caused a good deal of alarm and sensation. We trust the report is true that the real plague has not yet made its appearance in the town. But the real source of anxiety lies in the probability that the plague scare will arm the officers in charge of the health of the town with too large powers. We trust the Government will act with caution; and we pray that they will promulgate their plague rules after due deliberation. No officer of low rank should be given powers of final decision; for it is too often the bad officer who brings disgrace on his work. Nobody, merely because he is reported to have got the plague, should be forthwith taken away from his family, and his house reduced to ashes. The patient should first be examined by an experienced physician in order to ascertain whether he really has the plague or not; and if he has it, he should be segregated without doing the least violence to caste, custom, or religion. The hasty adoption of any other procedure would be simply disastrous. We hope our new Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to listen to our suggestions.

BASUMATI, April 28th, 1898.

38. Speaking of plague, the *Basumati* of the 28th April says:—It is

The plague panic in Calcutta.

notorious that in places where epidemics of this nature prevail, more people die of panic than of the disease itself. There is already a panic in Calcutta. We trust the Government of Sir John Woodburn will see their way to remove it from the minds of the people, and we beg to suggest that a circular should be issued in the vernaculars to the effect that the plague has not yet made its appearance in Calcutta, and that if it comes at all, proper arrangements for treatment will be made, and there will be no oppression of the people.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

JYOTI, April 21st, 1898.

39. The *Jyoti* of the 21st April supports Mr. Charlu's Religious Endowments Bill, and says that with the connivance of the

The Religious Endowments Bill.

Mahantas some mischievous persons are misinterpreting the sections of the Bill. It is to be hoped that the general public will not be deceived by their statements.

HITAVADI, April 22nd, 1898.

40. Sir John Woodburn, writes the *Hitavadi* of the 22nd April, is taking a good deal of interest in the municipal affairs of Calcutta. Now that the Calcutta Municipal Bill has been referred to the Select Committee, the Government will not withdraw it for the sake of prestige. But if Sir John

Sir John Woodburn and the Calcutta Municipal Bill.

Woodburn acts with some experience of the municipal affairs of the town, and with the conviction that the Municipal Commissioners are not guilty of the charges laid at their door, the Bill may be amended to a desirable extent.

41. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* of the 23rd April writes :— As of all districts Bankura possesses the largest number of lepers, the introduction of the Lepers Act into this district is urgently needed. Will the District Magistrate inquire into the matter, and request the Local Government to introduce the measure here? If the lepers are allowed to bathe in the public tanks, &c., the disease will quickly spread through the whole district. This should be prevented by all means. Section 9, sub-section (1), clause (*c*) of the Act empowers the Lieutenant-Governor to prohibit lepers from journeying in any hired conveyance except the railway train, but no provision has been made to prevent lepers' clothes from being washed along with other clothes at the washerman's. This practice of washing and boiling lepers' clothes along with other people's clothes is a very harmful one, and it would be well if the local authorities looked to the matter.

BANKURA DARPAN, April 23rd, 1898.

The Lepers Act should be introduced in Bankura.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

42. The *Sansodhini* of the 20th April protests against the proposed discontinuance of relief to the sufferers from the recent cyclone. The Subdivisional Officer of Cox's Bazar, the Engineer and the Assistant Magistrate, who seem to have recommended the course, are all new to the district, and have scarcely any idea of the extent and intensity of the calamity which befell the people. A similar proposal was mooted a few days ago, but Mr. Collier, the late Commissioner, would not entertain it. The writer hopes that the present Commissioner and the District Magistrate will pay a visit to the seaboard, and witness the misery of the people with their own eyes before they order the closing of gratuitous relief, which should be continued to be given till the gathering in of the *aus* crop.

SANSODHINI, April 20th, 1898.

Relief to the distressed in Chittagong.

43. The *Jyoti* of the 21st April hears that people are dying of starvation in Sheikh Khil, Chambal, Napara and other villages in the Chittagong district. Mr. Ward, the Assistant Magistrate, went there recently with 200 maunds of rice which was doled out in the course of a single day. He was surrounded by hundreds of starving people clamouring for food, but he could not hold out to them any hope of speedy succour.

JYOTI, APRIL 21st, 1898.

Distress in the Chittagong district.

44. The same paper has the following:— The Government is evidently of opinion that the misery of the people is at an end. In this connection Sir Alexander Mackenzie said: "I see in the events of the past year reason to hope that Bengal, Bihar and Orissa may have now seen the last of the great famines." And again, "the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it is not too much to expect, as time goes on and the condition of the people continues to improve, as it undoubtedly has improved in the past quarter of a century, that they will be able to meet any calamity that is ever likely to occur in the future with an increasingly diminished expenditure from State Funds." These are, no doubt, very hopeful and reassuring words, for who is there who does not feel elated at the thought that our condition will continue to improve and that we shall no longer know any famine? But empty words do not satisfy one's hunger. The average income of a native of India being only Rs. 27 per annum, out of which he has to pay Rs. 5 in the shape of taxes, it is incredible that any improvement can be possible in his condition. Indeed, it is a mere joke to be told that there is no fear of famine overtaking a people who are in a state of chronic starvation, and one-fifth of whom live on only one meal a day. That the Indian people should silently and uncomplainingly bear their trouble and find themselves improved off the face of the earth for want of food may, indeed, be improvement from a philosophic point of view, and, indeed, Government has provided for such improvement by the way they have carried out their amendment of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. The Government takes a good deal of credit for the extension

JYOTI.

The so-called improvement in the condition of the people.

of roads and railways. But India is an agricultural country; the land is gradually getting less fertile, the population is increasing, the produce of our fields is being carried off to other countries. Do not these contribute to the increased poverty of the people? The Government, however, is silent on this question. The fact is that our misery will never end; we are never again to know a good year. When Sir Alexander uttered the words quoted above, did he feel the least sympathy with the people of Chittagong who have been reduced to the verge of ruin by famine, fire and cyclone? What little they possessed is gone, while there is no chance of securing loans. They will perhaps manage to live for some time on one meal a day. But it is neither gratifying nor profitable to think of what may befall them afterwards.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

Samay, April 22nd, 1898.

45. The *Samay* of the 22nd April writes as follows:—

Bengali cowardice.

A writer in an English periodical dilates on what he calls Bengali cowardice, and puts forward certain facts in support of the statements he makes. These facts, we confess, are correct, but the conclusion based on them is wrong. The Bengali is not a coward, nor is he a rash and reckless fanatic like a *Ghazi*. He has been taught not to risk his life where there is nothing to be gained by doing so. It is said that he flies in fear from a European. This is no wonder, when we bear in mind that, inspite of the equality of the English law, Europeans have rarely been punished for the murder of natives. That this is so is amply testified to by the notorious O'Hara case. As a proof of the Bengali's cowardice, it is urged that he does not serve in the army. But is this a fault of the Bengali or of the authorities who recruit soldiers for the army? The Bengali has the courage to ascend the sky in a balloon and descend to the earth with the help of a parachute; he does not hesitate to place his head in the jaw of the lion or the tiger. Could he not as bravely distinguish himself in the battle-field if he was given a military training by his rulers? To tell the truth, it is not the Bengali alone who has been emasculated under British rule. The martial Chohan whose military exploits are still sung by Rajput poets has become, through the want of a military training and exercise, so effeminate that he hesitates to wield the sword. Give the Bengali an opportunity to distinguish himself in the battle-field, give him a military training, give him arms to handle, and he is sure to make a brave soldier. The Bengali has even under British rule distinguished himself as a brave soldier whenever an opportunity has presented itself. Durgadas Bannerji and Pyari Babu, the famous "figthting Munsif," distinguished themselves as brave soldiers during the Mutiny. One swallow, you may say, does not make a summer. But instances of Bengali heroism are not rare. Who has not heard of the military exploits of Pratapaditya and his Bengali army? Who is not aware of the history of the Malla Chiefs of Bishnupur? Lieutenant Sures Biswas, who electrified the civilised world with his exploits in the Brazilian Civil War is a Bengali. A Bengali is also distinguishing himself in the United States Army. These are but few of the numerous instances which go to prove Bengali heroism.

Uriya Papers.

Uriya and Navasamvad.

Sambalpur Hitaishini, Feb. 23rd, 1898.

46. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* and the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 23rd February recommend that Tilak may be pardoned and released, as he has been already punished sufficiently.

Recommendation for Tilak's release.

Utkaldipika, Feb. 19th, 1898.

47. Referring to the proposal of Mr. Cooke, the Commissioner of Orissa, that the services of a European Principal in the Ravenshaw College are necessary in the interests of the minor Rajas, the *Utkaldipika* of the 19th February points out that when Mr. Hallward was the Principal of that College, the minor Rajas were so disgusted with him that they left the College in a body and rejoined it after Mr. Hallward was transferred. The writer is of opinion that the European tutors of the Gurjat Rajas have been found in many instances to be failures.

The question of a European Principal for the Ravenshaw College.

48. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 23rd February does not approve of the transfer of ministerial officers drawing salaries below Rs. 20, and, therefore, dissuades the Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur from transferring the low-paid *amla* of his office.

Transfer of ministerial officers.

SAMBALPUR HITAISHINI, Feb. 23rd, 1898.

ASSAM PAPERS.

49. The *Silchar* for the 2nd fortnight of March has the following:—

Captain D. Herbert, who has now come back to Cachar as Deputy Commissioner, is an able officer and an extremely amiable man. He is very kind to Bengalis and has distinguished himself by his charity. His wife has also earned general love and respect by her sympathetic and kind disposition. The first act he did on his arrival at Silchar was to visit the Dhaleswari Reserves at Hailakandi. A settlement of these Reserves is just now being made. Mr. Herbert heard hundreds of petitions on the spot, and made arrangements to the satisfaction of all. He inspected the settlement work of the Tahsildar, Babu Haris Chandra Sen, and was so pleased with it that, at the instance of a large number of the tenants, he changed the name of a part of the reserve to Harisnagar. It is now proposed to turn the whole of the reserves into a new pargana, and name it Harisnagar. Another reserve in the Sadar jurisdiction has just been opened up for settlement. It is to be hoped that Mr. Herbert will visit this place too and make satisfactory arrangements.

Captain Herbert, Deputy Commissioner of Cachar.

SILCHAR, Mar. 2nd fortnight, 1898.

50. The same paper says:—

The recent settlements have resulted in a large enhancement of the land revenue in the temporarily-settled mahals in Cachar. This would not matter much, if the settlements were made permanent or at any rate for longer periods than at present. The prosperity of Bengal is wholly due to its permanent settlement. Common sense will say that everybody wants his lands to improve and yield more and more abundant crops. We pray Mr. Cotton to be good enough either to introduce the permanent settlement in Cachar or to increase the term of these temporary settlements.

A permanent settlement in Cachar.

SILCHAR.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 30th April, 1898.

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